



*Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Embassy, Wellington*

25 July 2006

INCREASE IN WORKING HOLIDAY VISAS

US Ambassador Bill McCormick has welcomed New Zealand's considerable increase in the number of Working Holiday visas available to young Americans.

"As a result of today's announcement, in the coming year, five times as many young Americans will be able to gain from the invaluable experience of living and working in New Zealand on a working holiday visa."

These visas are a fantastic chance for young Americans to work and holiday in New Zealand for up to 12 months.

"When we were at a Fulbright reception recently Winston Peters said that people-to-people contacts underpin our official political and economic ties and I told him I couldn't agree more.

"My wife Gail spent a year in New Zealand back in the early seventies and I know just how much she values that experience. Like other young Americans who have spent time here Gail made life-long friendships and learnt so much from listening to, and living among, New Zealanders. Gail and her Kiwi hosts have benefited enormously from developing a mutual understanding of one another's cultures and today's announcement is a chance for others to enjoy similar benefits."